



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

For Information Contact Public Affairs
WYN HORNBUCKLE
Telephone: (602) 514-7625
Cell: (602) 525-2681

TWO CALIFORNIA MEN SENTENCED TO 24 YEARS EACH FOR ROLES IN VIOLENT CRIME SPREE.

TUCSON, Ariz. – Carlos Torres, 26, of Fontana, California, and Rick Sweet, 31, of Pomona, California, were each sentenced to 288 months (24 years) imprisonment to be followed by 60 months of supervised release, by Chief U.S. District Judge John M. Roll. Both Torres and Sweet pleaded guilty to Brandishing a Firearm During a Crime of Violence, and four counts of Interference with Commerce by Robbery.

On February 20, 2005, both Torres and Sweet entered a Tucson area Footlocker Store and grabbed merchandise without paying for it. When confronted by store employees, Torres flashed a large caliber handgun. Later that same day, both men entered a Tucson area Mervyn's department store and grabbed merchandise without paying for it. When confronted by store employees who had seized Sweet, Torres pointed the large caliber handgun at the employees and demanded that they let Sweet go.

On March 4, 2005, both Torres and Sweet confronted a man washing his truck at a local Tucson car wash. Torres pointed the large caliber handgun at the owner and demanded the keys. Sweet then pulled the man away from his truck so Torres could drive it away. Later that same day, both Torres and Sweet entered a local retail clothing store and took merchandise without paying for it. Torres was grabbed from behind by the store owner. Sweet struck the store owner repeatedly in the face causing him to release Torres. Torres then pulled out the large caliber handgun and asked the store owner, "Do you want to die?" Torres was arrested later that day while attempting to flee in the car-jacked truck, after Tucson police disabled the truck to prevent a high speed flight in rush hour traffic.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives and officers of the Tucson Police Department working in conjunction with the Violent Crime Impact Team. The Violent Crime Impact Team is a local and federal multi-agency task force designed to prosecute and bring to justice violent offenders in designated areas in the greater Tucson area. The prosecution was handled by Angela Martinez and David P. Petermann, Assistant U.S. Attorneys, District of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-05-0672-JMR
RELEASE NUMBER: 2007-073(Torres & Sweet)

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